



## News Release

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### **SPAWAR Transfers More Than \$1 Million in Equipment to National Science Foundation, New York Air National Guard Continuing Arctic Scientific Research**

SAN DIEGO -- In an effort to help continue Arctic research efforts, while at the same time phasing out some fixed Navy infrastructure and equipment at Thule Air Base in Greenland, the U.S. Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command has transferred more than \$1 million in equipment to the National Science Foundation and the New York Air National Guard's (NYANG) 109th Airlift Wing. The equipment will be used to support ski-based airlift logistics and scientific research at Thule, Greenland's northernmost military installation.

The transfer process, which began on May 19th, 1997 when various equipment was provided to both organizations, is expected to be completed by July 31st, 1997. The material that is being provided includes equipment designed for use in portable and deployable research camps that operate on drifting ice in the Arctic Ocean. Specific equipment that is being transferred includes "Weatherport" portable buildings and tents, high frequency (HF) communication units, Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation equipment, 50,000 BTU oil heaters, generators, tables, chairs, bunks, kitchen material, carpentry tools, snow machines, Nansen-type sleds, augers, equipment needed to repair snow machines and other electronic equipment and cold weather clothing.

Dr. Thomas Pyle, section head for Arctic Science at the National Science Foundation, in addressing the transfer said "the Navy deserves recognition for its support of 'dual use' (defense and science) approaches for a number of major national programs in science and technology. The equipment being transferred from SPAWAR to NSF will be used in programs intended to document trends in global climate change and monitor them more closely," he said.

Colonel Jonathan Adams, Wing Commander of the New York Air National Guard's ski-equipped LC-130 aircraft operators, the 109th Airlift Wing, in commenting on the transfer, said "We are grateful to the Navy for their continued support of 109th operations in both the Arctic and Antarctic. In this case, equipment received from the Navy in Greenland will greatly enhance our Arctic operations, which have resulted in the logistical support of dramatic breakthroughs in human understanding of trends in areas like climate change." The 109th Airlift Wing is based in Schenectady, New York.

Mr. Imants Virsnieks, SPAWAR coordinator for the Arctic dual use project, said of the effort "SPAWAR is very pleased that this operational capability to routinely deploy a drifting station anywhere on the



A Navy LC-130 prepares to land at McMurdo Station on Ross Island, Antarctica. The New York Air National Guard conducts all United States Arctic and Antarctic logistical support missions. *U.S. Navy photograph*

Arctic Ocean has benefited the scientific community and, in the spirit of dual use, will continue to benefit the National Science Foundation and New York Air National Guard."

The Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, NSF and NYANG 109th Airlift Wing partnership in support of science began in 1989 when the Navy's Arctic Logistics Coordinator attended a major Arctic science conference and made it known that the Navy's drifting sea ice stations were available for dual scientific use. This offer resulted in the Navy becoming involved in selected scientific programs beginning in 1992. As part of this effort SPAWAR has provided free and frequent use of its Arctic logistics and equipment infrastructure to scientific researchers and their airlift providers at Thule. Support has been provided through employment of a 1994 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the NSF and an Inter Service Support Agreement (ISSA) with the U.S. Air Force Space Command's 21st Space Wing, Colorado Springs, Colo., who operates Thule Air Base Greenland. SPAWAR's support agreement with the 21st Space Wing expires on July 31st, 1997. To continue the dual use effort the Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) has entered into a support agreement with the 21st Space Wing. That agreement, which continues to allow Navy and NSF use of various facilities at Thule Air Base for logistics purposes, becomes effective on August 1st, 1997.

The mission of SPAWAR, a Navy systems acquisition command who develops and executes the Navy's Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) programs, is "to deliver supported, affordable, integrated and interoperable world-class information solutions to warriors and supporting elements, enabling them to dominate today and tomorrow, as we move "Forward...From the Sea." The SPAWAR corporation, which consists of the headquarters staff, a program executive office and three field activities, includes more than 5,000 engineers and scientists, computer specialists, contract professionals, project managers, equipment installers, technicians and administrative support personnel. SPAWAR is currently in the process of relocating its headquarters from Crystal City in the Washington, D.C. area to San Diego, which came about as a result of a 1995 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) decision. SPAWAR's move to San Diego will be completed in October 1997.

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